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Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority

PCT/EP2004/053254

Appended Sheet

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Re Section V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting this statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP-A-0 720 018 (GENERAL MOTORS CO.) July 3, 1996 (1996-07-03)

D2: EP-A-0 709 670 (GENERAL MOTORS CO.) May 1, 1996 (1996-05-01)

D3: EP-A-0 343 533 (GTE LABORATORIES INC.) November 29, 1989 (1989-11-29)

1. Clarity (Article 6 PCT)

1.1. From the description on page 6, lines 18-21, it may be inferred that the embedding of the lead tracks in the insulation is an essential feature for the definition of the present invention.

Since independent Claim 1 does not include this feature, it does not correspond to the requirements of Article 6 PCT in connection with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, according to which an independent claim has to include all technical features that are essential to the invention. In addition, Claim 1 is not sufficiently delimited from the related art, since even metallic connecting wires (see D3, Figure 3) can be interpreted as ("Zuleitungsbahnen") lead tracks.

1.2. The terms „low“ and „as great as possible“ used in Claim 1 are relative, and leave the reader in doubt about the meaning of the respective technical features. As a result, the definition of the subject matter of this claim is not clear.

2. Independent Claim 1

Document D1 describes an exhaust gas sensor having a resistor track (24) that runs in a meandering shape, a laminate having a solid electrolyte and the embedding of the resistor track in the insulation being not explicitly mentioned, to be sure, but being made clearly obvious by the reference to document D2 (US Application # 08/332165), since, in this connection, typical features of the exhaust-gas oxygen sensor, that was mentioned in D2, are involved.

The sensor described in D1 is characterized in that resistor track (24) is made of a material (A), whose specific Ohmic resistance is three times as great as that of material (B), of which lead tracks (26) are made. Thus, all the features of Claim 1 are known from D1, and the subject matter of this claim is therefore not novel within the meaning of Article 33(2) PCT.

3. Dependent Claims

3.1. Dependent Claims 2, 3, and 6-19 do not contain any features that, in combination with the features of Claim

1, satisfy the requirements of the PCT with regard to novelty and inventive activity.

3.2. None of the present documents describes a resistor track that is wider than the lead tracks. The subject matter of Claim 4 is therefore considered novel and inventive.